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or to

"THE HONGKONG TELEGRAPH" Office, Pedder's Hill,

Hongkong, January 10th, 1891.

The Hongkong Telegraph.

HONGKONG, THURSDAY, JULY 16, 1891.

The Lord Chief Justice of England, in concluding his summing-up in a *cause célèbre* which he recently presided over, reminded the jury who had to decide upon the case that in arriving at a decision regarding the honour of one party they were not to forget their own. May not this same pregnant caution be applied to

those who have to decide upon the Share Ordinance to-morrow? This journal was first in the field in advocating proper legislation in regard to the stock gambling which has been so rife in this colony and which has irretrievably ruined so many of its citizens, and we have never wavered in opinion as to the advisability of some measure of reform. We are, however, far from satisfied that the measure now proposed will meet the evil, but rather are of opinion that it will be found impracticable of working if the proposed measure is adopted in its entirety, and will only result in intensifying the situation, while further demoralizing the community. Does any sane creature, with the example of the futility of the working of the Gambling Ordinance as affecting the dealings in Manila lottery tickets before him, think for a single moment that buying and selling on time will not continue in this colony in the face of any such legislation? If there be such a one amongst us he must be an excessively simple individual. Not only will such transactions be likely to be indulged in to a greater extent than ever, but freed from any possible legal restraint, speculators will be able to indulge in the "heads, I win, tails, you lose" game indefinitely and be able to repudiate their engagements at will, without any particular qualms of conscience so far as Hongkong law is concerned. We do not question that our sage legislators are all "honourable" men, as the immortal bard would possibly have said in regard to this all-important question, but few will dispute, that it is better that such questions brought forward for the purification of the Hongkong community should be introduced by those who, while acknowledging their apparent *bona fides*, are without even the suspicion of reproach. Now it cannot be gainsaid in regard to many popular stocks which have had their brief existence and subsequently been knocked into pie, that the paternity of the same has been claimed by the eminent firm here represented by the mover of the Bill, and supported by its Press henchman; need we say we refer to Rio Tinto in the past, and China Sugars and Imuris of the present. When the Maharajah, since dubbed Sultan of Johore, first visited England and was being feasted by Tummy to repletion, Frank Burnand humorously asked "Who is the Maharajah, and where is Johore?" and as regards the mysterious Imuris mines, we should be justified in asking a similar question if it were not for its serious aspect. Here is a mine literally without definite location, yet no less than \$1,000,000 are said to have gone from this part of the world into these mines, which the Incas and Cortez gave up in despair, and for the sake of confiding Hongkong investors, it is to be hoped their experiences will prove more resultful. There are some investments which are described by our cute American counsels as "wild cat," or "black dog for white monkey" concerns, and this Inca-ish undertaking savours remarkably of this kind of speculation. At all events now that all the change is off the counter, it would seem that suddenly it is discovered that a purifying medium is required and all we say is that we regret this medium could not be found in a less questionable quarter.

Even should this Bill become law both speculators and brokers will smile up their sleeves at it, and the old game will jog on as serenely as ever. At the same time it is absolutely necessary that some reform should be introduced for the purification of share-dealing, but as we have maintained throughout the chapter the remedy lies in the hands of the influential and respectable brokers, or rather in a properly formed and solidly based Broker's Association. And why those members of the present effete institution, and all who can claim to come under the above category, should not long ago have taken a firm and independent stand and in the interests alike of their principals and themselves introduced these much needed reforms (for that they are absolutely necessary is patent even to one possessing the crudest of commercial minds) we cannot pretend to understand. To put it simply and shortly, let the present brokers' waiting-rooms—for they are nothing more—be cleaned out of about half their occupants, and let them reorganise an Association that will, by its adherence to a strict code of rules, protect the interests of the public, and thereby gain its confidence and respect. Let brokers be sworn and licensed so that they may individually bear a fair proportion of the responsibility attending their important calling. We would also suggest that the license fee be a heavy one, for this would exclude all doubtful characters from the Association, and would be the cause of more than one "shady" individual making a graceful exit from the already thinned-ranks of the spread-eagled knights. The extra cost of the necessary license could be made good to the brokers, by a reduction of the

almost excessive stamp duty now charged. Another, and this is the strongest point of all, is that the Association when reformed should bind its members firmly down in the matter of signing for the "concerned." This rule should be as firmly adhered to as were those of the Medes and Persians, and any violation of it should be met with summary expulsion. This is the true and only safe-guard against dishonest speculation, and is about the only practical device that can be introduced to prevent brokers speculating on their own account. The public will then know with whom they are dealing, and knowing the seller or the buyer, as the case may be, of a certain stock will be a guide to a genuine investor, and also a wholesome check upon reckless gambling. These reforms lie in the hands of most immediately concerned, and if they fail to shew that they are really desirous of seeing the colossal share-business which is being carried on in Hongkong conducted on an honest and straightforward basis they cannot well complain when the protection of the law is sought in the interests of the public. That this was the one and sole prompting motive of Mr. Kewrick when he brought this Bill forward we would be sorry indeed to affirm; in fact it is regarded by ninety per cent of the residents of Hongkong that it is a case of diamond cut diamond, but from which side the most sparks will fly remains to be seen.

## TELEGRAMS.

MANCHESTER SHIP CANAL.

LONDON, July 14th.  
An embankment has given way, closing the Eastham Section, recently filled.

THE JEWS IN RUSSIA.

The exodus had had a disturbing influence on trade, but a reaction has set in.

## LOCAL AND GENERAL.

MESSRS. Butterfield & Swire inform us that the Ocean Steamship Co.'s steamer *Patricius*, from Liverpool, left Singapore for the port yesterday afternoon, and is due on the 21st inst.

An English paper remarks that "ordinary women prefer ordinary men" and that "the common female mind cannot be got to admire genius." That's just as true of men as of women.

We are informed by the Agents (Messrs. Arnould, Karberg & Co.) that the China Shippers' Mutual S.N. Co.'s steamer *Ophelia*, from London and Liverpool, passed the Canal on the 16th inst., and may be considered due at Singapore on or about the 21st prox.

The Chinese in Victoria, Australia, have decreased in 10 years from 12,123 to 8,137, and the aborigines from 786 to 584. In 1881 there were in Victoria 9,049 unhabilitated houses; now there are 17,461, and yet there is many a man who has no place to lay his head.

The following libel is laid at the door of the *Evening Sun*. "When you go to Mr. and Mrs. Canton's Love do you see Mr. and Mrs. Canton? 'Yes, but there is little pleasure in it.' 'Why, what is the matter with them?' 'The old story: Mary in New York and repent in Philadelphia.'"

On Monday last, says the *Bangkok Times* of the 14th inst., John Maclean, trading under the style of Maclean & Co. filed a schedule in H.M. Consular Court (Bankruptcy Division). The liabilities are said to be a little over \$400,000, and the immediate cause of the failure may be attributed to the pressure brought to bear on the young man by the liquidators of the firm of Jucker, Sig & Co.

A REMARKABLE case is now engaging the attention of the Civil Court at Antwerp. Two ex-agents of the Congo Free State and army officers are charging each other with cheating. They each say the other stole ivory and guns from the Government while in Africa, and are suing one another for libel. Some exceedingly long testimony regarding the administration of the Congo Free State will be forthcoming at these trials.

BOSTONIAN love scene. "Believe me, George, dear, the fact that you are not wealthy makes no difference in my love for you," she said. "I love you for yourself alone. I would choose love in a cottage rather than a union without affection in a costly mansion." "Darling," he said, "I am glad to hear you speak thus. There is no but one obstacle to prevent our marriage." "And what is that?" she asked. "I can't raise the wind to buy even the cottage."

THE Bangkok police are doing their utmost to collect the triennial poll-tax (\$2.70 per capita) levied on Chinese immigrants. The wily Celestial, however, is equal to the alert to evade payment, and adopts extraordinary dodges to that end. As a last resort, says the *Times*, the "blacks" are now literally "sticking up" carriages and buses carrying Chinese along the main thoroughfares of the city and suburbs, and those whom they find without the mark are invited to step into the nearest tax-collector's office.

HEAVEN be praised, for the blessings of civilization have been extended even to that night-side-of-nature-like City, Macao. In connection with the "Joss pigdun" that is to be indulged in there on our Lord's next resting day there are to be athletic sports too. Whoop-a-lay! From the Cathedral to the bath-house is a far cry, but Mr. J. J. Collaço has imported two fiery steeds from the wilds of Mongolia, and these for the first time will be tied to the famous bus and will carry intending visitors over the entire distance in five minutes, more or less. The weekly wash will commence at 5.30 p.m. at Bella Vista, and ample quantities of soap have been provided. Sports of all sorts will be indulged in at that popular resort, but to give further particulars would only be anticipating the pleasures that await the many weary pilgrims who will doubtless take full advantage of the opportunity to free themselves from sin and summer dust.

SIAM is the lawyer's paradise, evidently. The *Bangkok Times* records the departure recently of a young American attorney who left there for the States with \$24,000, besides having acquired landed property in Bangkok and being in every way much better off than when he dropped ashore some three short years ago.

ONE of the most brutal sentences recorded for some time past was that passed upon an artist's model, named Richard Hunter, at a recent sitting of the Dublin Commission Court. The man was employed by a Miss Redmond to serve as a model for the Father Mathew statue which is about to be erected by subscription, but a difference arose between them and in a fit of rage Hunter destroyed the model, which was almost completed. The thing was valued at £250, but the Judge sentenced him to seven years penal servitude.

At the end of last August 5,000 tacks of opium were found on board the German steamship *Kriemhild*, at Singapore, as cargo for Hamburg from Hongkong. We pointed out at the time, says the *Free Press*, that the principle involved in the prosecution, though perfectly justified from a legal point of view, threw great responsibility on the captains of vessels carrying opium in transit. We learn that in consequence of much correspondence with the Government, and as a result of communication from the Secretary of State, the whole cost of the fine is to be refunded to Messrs. Puttlerken, on behalf of Messrs. Oettinger, the consignees.

FINANCIAL failure has apparently hung out its banner on the outward wall for the day is still it comes, otherwise rumour lies. It has been observed, reiterated this morning that two old and industrious firms well-known throughout the East have just "knocked under." The first is that of Messrs. Alston, Scott & Co., of Ceylon, who carried on a large business as merchants and estate agents, and also as agents for the British India Steamship Company, and one or two financial institutions which have branches here. The second is that of Messrs. Macgarratt Tidman and Co. of London, but whether all the branches of this firm, which worked under different styles in Java and other places in the East, are involved in the failure, or not, we have not yet learned.

AN exchange records the following extraordinary fate which has befallen three brothers named Vandenberg, cattle breeders, of Atchison, County Kansas. About a fortnight ago a steer, belonging to one of their herds of cattle, was bitten by a mad dog, and soon showed unmistakable symptoms of rabies. The disease spread throughout the herd, and Messrs. Vandenberg, who were not aware of what had occurred, were bitten each in turn by the affected cattle. They paid no particular attention to their wounds until one of the brothers was violently attacked recently with hydrophobia, and died in terrible agony with his hands and feet in a state of convulsion. Another of the brothers succumbed under similar circumstances. The third now exhibits all the symptoms of the disease, and it is not thought likely that he will recover.

A COUPLE of ponies that were being driven in a wagonette near Wanchai market yesterday afternoon took fright at something, and ran away. In a few moments they caused the vehicle to collide with a tree, and the two males on the box began to throb, and the two females on the pole began to kick, and no particular damage was done. But the ponies kept on, and raced down the Praya at top speed, causing a considerable number of coolies and youngsters to run along at quite an unusual rate. The coolies left their barrows, however, and when the animals reached them there was a small crisis, ending in favor of the barrows. The pony to whose harness the pole was still attached got so upset a griffin that was feeling a bit seedy that it went out, and in the language of Mrs. Siegel, laid down to die.

Mr. Supreme Court Judge Chubb (N.Q.), in *Regina v. Vorper*, for "sedition"—There is no moral harm in advocating a Republic, provided peaceful means are recommended. I believe, and I think in common with most intelligent men, that the conversion of the Australian colonies into a Republic is inevitable, and I am of opinion that the person who does not, in some measure, agree with that idea is one who is incapable of comprehending the destiny of his country. Success against the destiny of his country is, however, whether the effects are good or ill, no one can judge of them, and none can punish the principals; if, however, it is not successful, society avenges itself on the rebels, even though it may subsequently admit that they were right. If the Crown placed the same construction upon Chief Justice Lillie's words that they had upon those of the defendant, and the jury endorsed that construction, then the Chief Justice could be punished as could be any other individual. He who runs in read.

In connection with the robbery that was perpetrated at the Hongkong Hotel on the night of the 14th inst. some interesting facts have come to light. It would seem from the surroundings of the case that the thief or thieves were thoroughly conversant with the interior arrangements of the room, and knew where the jewellery was to be found. The inmates of the room, Mr. and Mrs. Hawes, were asleep, but it would have been almost impossible for the thief to have noisily ransacked the room without awakening the occupants unless he knew exactly where to put his hands on the things. Jewellery to the amount of about \$750 was annexed, and we believe that many of the articles stolen were prized not so much for their intrinsic value as for other reasons. To prove that the affair was very leisurely carried out, or that previous advice had been given to the untimely visitor, a pair of brass buckles which, being highly polished, resembled gold, were cut off Mrs. Hawes' shoes. A bundle of odds and ends that had been collected from the dressing table was found on the verandah the following morning. No arrests have yet been made.

H. M. S. *Hyacinth*, which is at present stationed at Singapore, will be relieved, according to the *Free Press*, either during the latter part of this year or early next year by one of the new cruisers, in accordance with the new regulations. The *Hyacinth* will come to Hongkong for a brief period, and will then proceed home to broken up. H. M. S. *Plouffe*, *Redpole* and *Pegmy* will very soon leave the China Station. H. M. S. *Paacoch*, on the expiration of her commission, is to go home. These vessels are to be supplanted by one of the latest twin screw cruisers capable of making over twenty knots an hour. The names of the cruisers are not known at present, and although several names are mentioned nothing definite is to hand. All the ships of the new Australian Colonies Defence Fleet recently turned out of the different shipyards at home, are at present at Colombo. They are expected in Singapore shortly on their way to Batavia, where all the vessels are to assemble, previous to proceeding to their destination in Australian waters. H. M. S. *Rattler* will leave Singapore on the 27th inst. in order to proceed to the Christmas and Cocos Islands on duty for comparison with the *Rattler* has to make a survey of the Islands, which should prove of considerable service to navigation.

THE *Macanese* contains an account of a pretty gallant act which a boy of thirteen, named Maximiliano José Collaço, son of the proprietor of the Bella Vista baths, performed on the 8th inst. He and three other named de Sousa, Aquino, and Telles jun., were out in a small boat, some half-mile from the shore, when Telles began rocking the boat and fooling generally. De Sousa and Aquino told him to desist for fear of an accident, as they couldn't swim, but he continued, and by and by they found themselves in the water. De Sousa and Aquino were in imminent danger of drowning, but Collaço had the presence of mind to swim to them with oars, and so supported them, until he could bring the boat to them. His father saw the "accident," and took them into another boat. The Governor of Macao is moving the Lisbon authorities to recognise the youth's bravery, and in the meantime Telles is up before the Magistrate.

A SHOCKING catastrophe occurred on the Tempelhofer-feld, Berlin, during the recent field exercises of the Kaiser's Grenadier Regiment. The first company was engaged in throwing up earthworks. Rain was falling in torrents at the time, and a terrific thunderstorm was raging. Suddenly a tremendous crash was heard, when it was observed that the lightning had struck in the midst of the company, all being thrown to the ground. The captain's horse was seen to rear wildly, and the next minute dropped dead. Those who were able ran to assist the captain and 34 men of the company who were lying senseless on the ground. It was then discovered that the lightning had struck the horse, while the bugler who was holding him had the spike of his helmet melted. The current had struck the man's helmet and had travelled from the top of the head through the left side of the body into the ground, inflicting a scalp wound and shattering the man's ribs, besides making a red zig-zag mark all along the body. The unfortunate fellow, who is not expected to live, and six others, were carried in cloaks to the adjacent hospital.

THE severe frost which was experienced last night extended to the Theatre Royal, notwithstanding that the bill of fare comprised that very humorous and tenebrous opera "Les Manteaux Noirs." What the audience lacked in numbers it certainly made up for in enthusiasm, but that won't pay hotel bills. There is really very little fresh to be said about the undoubtedly high-class company which Mr. Willard is piloting around—they played and sang as charmingly as ever. Miss St. John was a sweetly pretty *Gilda*, and got an encore nearly every time she tried; Mr. Walshe was never in better voice, and we noted with pleasure, has profited by the friendly hints given the other evening, and paid a little more attention to acting. Mr. Wentworth gave further proofs of his ability as a comedian, in the part of *Don Joss*, and Mr. Hall was as funny as a funny man could be. Mr. Vernard, made up as Mr. . . . , the handsome broker, crippled a quantity of Spanish during his impersonation of the gay and giddy *Don Philip*, but atoned for it to some extent by singing a pretty serenade. Miss Paley was not an unqualified success as *Queen Isabel*—she looked faded, and as though she was anxious to know if her diamonds were being lifted at the hotel. Miss Jessie Royal gained fresh laurels by her sprightly acting and singing as *Donna Clarinda*, and all the young ladies of the chorus looked lovely! To-night *Paul Jones* will be repeated.

THE following is an interesting extract from a book recently published in England—The first tendency we notice of the military profession is that it makes a soldier more or less machine. "He is not to reason why, his but to do and die." To be "lord of himself" is often, as Lord Byron found to his cost, a "heritage of woe" to a man, and it is not a bad thing for him to be wound up like a clock and made to go right; but this winding-up process converts him into, it may be, a noble machine, but a machine still. Nearly told him to take it off, and he could not himself originate enough thought to do so. On Christmas Day an old soldier was carrying a brass-rod from the cook-house to his barrack-room. A sergeant who happened to be behind him shouted out in joke, "Attention!" Down went the hands of this creature of habit to his side, and down went the dish—This is all very well, but at the same time it must be remembered that there are Tommies and Tommies. We have seen him in the pathetic, and the plaintive, and also in the late mood, and from a very varied experience judge that "Tommy" in the East anyhow, is a creature who deserves any great amount of commiseration. The author of the above extract would have been a good deal more instructed had he seen the squad of "gallant" soldiers who chased a "ricksha" up Queen's Road a few nights since demanding the scalp of the occupant. It is only right and proper that such men should not be allowed to "think" for themselves—it saves them a deal of tribulation.

THE CROSS-EXAMINATION of the defendant occupied most of this morning. The next witness, To Sing, said he was cook in Tang Tung Shan, and was sent to take copies of certain inscriptions on the Tang family tombs. Tang Lai Sang had given him a copy, for comparison with the tomb. He noticed three men standing near. One looked like a stone-cutter, one a gentleman, and one a servant. The first was clipping the inscription. Witness saw two sentences cut by him. Mr. Francis objected to any statement of any sort as to what was inscribed on the tomb. It was a written document, and certified copies of inscriptions must be put in.

The cross-examination of the defendant occupied most of this morning. The next witness, To Sing, said he was cook in Tang Tung Shan, and was sent to take copies of certain inscriptions on the Tang family tombs. Tang Lai Sang had given him a copy, for comparison with the tomb. He noticed three men standing near. One looked like a stone-cutter, one a gentleman, and one a servant. The first was clipping the inscription. Witness saw two sentences cut by him. Mr. Francis objected to any statement of any sort as to what was inscribed on the tomb. It was a written document, and certified copies of inscriptions must be put in.

The witness said that his copy of the mother's epitaph tallied with the carved inscription, but not the father's. One of the men standing there said his name was Tang Siu Seng. Witness saw him again, at the door of this Court, on July 8; identified him now in Court by the back of his neck, not having seen much of his face. In cross-examining the witness as to the inscriptions on the tombs, Mr. Francis produced and referred to a black-and-white Chinese carved character, which witness said was the same as he had seen, except that there was added on the paper "Kau Chong, worshipping son," after "here lies Tang A Lok" thus making it appear that the next of kin was plaintiff's father. The case was adjourned until Tuesday, and it is hoped to finish by Thursday next.

## CORRESPONDENCE.

(We do not necessarily endorse the opinions expressed by Correspondents in this column.)

## THE GOVERNMENT AND THE ATHLETIC CLUB.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "HONGKONG TELEGRAPH." Sir,—I enclose, for the favour of publication, copy of a letter received by me to-day from the Government, in reply to my communication of 21st May last.

Yours truly,  
W. M. YOUNG,  
Hon. Sec.-A.C.

Hongkong, 16th July, 1891.

Colonial Secretary's Office,  
15th July, 1891.

SIR,—With reference to your letter of the 21st May, I am directed by His Excellency, the Officer Administering the Government, to inform you that the subject brought forward by you has received the very careful consideration of the Government. It is hoped that the scheme for the general extension and sanitary improvement of the public recreation ground in the Happy Valley to which you refer may yet receive the approval of the Secretary of State, with a view to which His Excellency is furnishing more complete information as to the details and objects of the scheme than were previously submitted.

I am to add that the consideration of this question has been delayed owing to the necessity of considering with it other important proposals involving expenditure and also of obtaining more in detail the proportion of the estimated cost of this scheme due to sanitary and recreation purposes respectively, in regard to which the Secretary of State appears to have been under some misapprehension.

Had it been supposed that the investigation into this matter would have involved so much delay as has occurred, your letter would have been acknowledged earlier, with an intimation that the subject was under consideration.

I have the honour to be, Sir, your most obedient servant,

W. MEIGH GOODMAN,  
Acting Colonial Secretary,  
W. H. Young, Esq.

## IMPORTANT SURVEY IN BORNEO.

H.M.S. *Rattler*, Captain Hough, which at Singapore on the 5th inst., made a very important survey in parallel 4° 10' N., in which territory the limits and borders of the Dutch and British North Borneo Company's possessions have hitherto not been defined on a satisfactory basis. The *Rattler*, just after returning from Wuhu, the scene of the recent riots, received instructions at Hongkong to proceed to Borneo in order to carry out the survey as ordered by the Lords of the Admiralty. She left Hongkong on the 15th May, and in company with the Dutch warship *Banda*, Captain Van Oort, the survey proceeded to B.N. commenced on the Sibille Island. The result of the survey, says the *Free Press*, proved conclusively that the British North Borneo Company have acquired the whole of the St. Lucia Bay and the two rivers Sri Negarsa and Sine Soidang. These rivers were surveyed from the mouth right up to the source, which was found to be eighteen miles away. They are in point of fact nothing more or less than a variety of creeks, with an unusual abundance of mangroves that run out for a great distance in the waters. It was discovered that this part of Borneo consists of one great delta, which makes it feasible for a traveller to go from Sourabaya, the survey parallel creeks and for a distance of over fifteen miles from the coast. There is a prevailing idea that by the means of these rivers the forest products of British North Borneo have been drained and smuggled out of the territory, across or down the rivers into the land possessed by the Dutch. The *Banda* and the *Rattler* have removed all the discrepancies that existed with regard to the demarcation of the two borders; and indeed, when a comparison came to be made, it was found that the surveys of both parties corresponded in nearly every detail. The parallel latitude of 4° 10' N. has been beacons off with large beacons with the Dutch flag sailing to the southward, and the English flag sailing to the northward, in every direction over the eighteen miles as far as these rivers extend. The whole place has been completely and satisfactorily settled by observation; and owing to the immense mangrove swamps, great difficulty was experienced in finding an observatory spot. The country in the vicinity seems to be devoid of fruit, but there seemed to be a number of pig-wild boars. The people on board the *Rattler* managed to get no less than eight pigs in one day, which averaged, when dressed, about 80 lbs. each. The entire survey was completed in the course of a month, and then the ships came to Singapore.

## A JOURNEY IN KOREA.

(Continued.)

## BUDDHISM.

The monasteries in the Diamond Mountains occupy a fairly well-defined district of some thirty miles long by twenty miles broad in the north of the Kang-wi-do Province, and are easily visible from the Korean Sea, whence the main range is distant not more than thirty miles as the crow flies. Few places are more celebrated in any country than these mountains are in Korea. The early Buddhists were evidently the first to explore these, to all appearance, uninviting highlands. The absolute seclusion of the place and the severe grandeur of the scenery fulfilled conditions dear to the monastic mind in days when Buddhism was more of a reality and less of "a sham than truth." It is altogether, the district boasts of forty shrines, tended by 300 or 400 monks; a few nuns, and a host of lay servants. The great majority of the monks are congregated at the four chief monasteries, and the nuns possess a small sanctuary of two, where they find sufficient to do, apart from religious exercises, in weaving cotton and hempen garments, and other womanly occupations. The monks, when not in residence at the monasteries, travel all over the country, alms-bowl in hand, chanting the canons of Buddha from door to door, soliciting subscriptions to the building of a new altar or for the repair of an old one, and begging from day to day the food and clothing which are lavishly doled out to them.

The revenue to support this headquarters of Korean Buddhism is mainly drawn from landed property, which has been attached to the monasteries from time immemorial. Most of it lies on the eastern side of the Kwan-ang San, on the road leading from Yu-chi to Sin-yei Sa. At two or three of the hamlets there I was told that all the excellent rice-fields in the vicinity belonged to the monks, who let them to cultivators at an ordinary rental, generally payable in produce. Besides this, much reliance is placed on charitable offerings to defray the cost of new buildings and other extraordinary expenses. I saw new works progressing at Ch'ang-an Sa, the money for which, \$2,000 or \$4,000, proceeded from the same source; and the Superior of P'yo-an Sa spoke to me most hopefully of a descent he meditated on S'ul to solicit donations towards the extension and restoration of his tumble-down monastery. The monks do not shun as earnest exponents of their faith. Few of them could make of Buddhism or its history, and none could make any pretence to explain intelligently the purport of the books they use at their services. On the whole, the shrines themselves are not wanting, but whatever effect this might be calculated to have on the minds of devout persons must certainly be dissipated by the perfunctory mummery which is dignified with the name of worship. *Bond fide* pilgrims in search of spiritual comfort are rare; I only came across two.

## WONSAN.

There is little to add to previous reports on Wonsan. The bustling prosperous, dirty Korean town increases in population, and must now possess fully 15,000 inhabitants. The foreign quarter is a good mile away to the north, near a promontory, which affords a convenient landing-place for shipping and discharging cargo. There are two settlements, the Japanese founded in 1879, and the Chinese only recently. The Japanese, as the earliest comers, have acquired all the best ground available for sites, though more than half of it is now occupied by buildings. The Chinese settlement consists of two or three acres on the promontory, and the Chinese Consul considered himself fortunate to secure this small, so difficult it is now to obtain land which shall be at once convenient to the Customs-house, and outside the Japanese quarter. Other nationalities are so far unrepresented, except by the members of the Customs staff. Should the trade ever warrant the allotment of a settlement for Westerners only, considerable difficulty must be experienced in securing space to suit the usual requirements of merchants. There are 500 Japanese and 40 Chinese at Wonsan.

## KAPSAN.

At S'ul I had heard much of this place. The neighbourhood is popularly supposed to contain most of the mineral wealth of Korea, and I expected to find, in consequence, a busy mining town, wealthy, populous, and noisy. I was, however, thoroughly disappointed. Kapsan is a collection of perhaps 300 houses, enclosed by a wall, which is crumbling where it has not already fallen. The Yaméda exhibited the universal symptoms of decay. As for the inhabitants, they were without exception the idlest and rudest Koreans I had come across, and appeared to divide their day and part of their night pretty equally between inspecting my belongings and carousing. I inquired the reason why nobody seemed to be doing any work. The question received not a little surprise—it is one which no Korean would think of putting so bluntly; but I was soon informed, with all the outward signs of joy and satisfaction, that the country had been suspended from his functions for some grave irregularity, and was only permitted to transact business of a pressing nature pending a decision of the Central Government at S'ul. There is no doubt that Kapsan was once a very flourishing place. Its antiquity can hardly be disputed. Tradition says that Kapsan was for a long time the capital of some of the many small States which divided Korea in pre-historic times. At present, it seems to have fallen signally from its high position. Such was the dearth of ready money that a leading tradesman on whom I had a letter of credit for 10,000 cash, or 100 dollars, had to spend the best part of a day collecting the amount from his friends and neighbours.

## CHINESE ON THE FRONTIER.

The Chinese are rapidly populating their frontier. Many of the ever-increasing army, of wood-cutters and they are a chance of making a livelihood. There is a good deal of condescension about the Chiaman, who speaks of the Korean as a "little-country man," and of himself as the "big-country man," but it is displayed with tact, and is seldom offensive. Large numbers of Koreans have settled on Chinese territory. I believe that most of them work for the benefit of the Chinese, by whom they are maintained and directed, in a state of dependence exactly suited to their ambitious character. On the other hand, I only saw one instance of a Chinese squatter on Korean ground—a hunter who had built a hut in the forest near P'uk-u Sang. The relative merits of the Chinese and Koreans as colonists are brought irresistibly to notice. The Korean's hut is barely large enough for his family; his five stock consists of a dozen fowls, two or three pigs, and a dog, and his clearing produces just sufficient grain and hemp to keep him supplied with meals and clothes. The soil being rich, not half his time is occupied in accomplishing this much. I happened one day to rest an hour or so at the house of a Chinese settler on the north bank of the Yalu, where things were very different. Some twelve years before he had come empty-handed, but now his cleared land followed the river for half-a-mile and his homestead was quite an imposing array of buildings. He had several Koreans working for him, his outhouses were filled with produce, amongst which I noticed European cabbages and turnips, and a drove of forty pigs and several head of cattle roamed over the stubble. Like many other Chinese along the Yalu he possessed a still, which was kept constantly at work manufacturing a fiery spirit from Kae-lung (*Holcus sorghum*), held in great esteem by the Koreans. I was struck by the fact that none of the Chinese who were in the spirit drank it.

## BORROWING MONEY.

At Tong-ch'yn, the seat of a Prefect, I thought it advisable to borrow 10 or 15 dollars' worth of cash on the strength of the Foreign Office letter. I struck the place, however, at an unfortunate time. A week before, the people, maddened by persistent extortion, had risen against their rulers, and the Prefect, as well as his leading myrmidons, had been forced to take an abrupt departure. I made my application for a loan to the clerk in charge at the magistracy, and he soon responded by sending exactly half the amount I had asked for. I should have settled content with this, but in the course of a simple inquiry as to why my small demand had been reduced, the clerk's answer informed me that the great bulk of the money had been sent to get what I did. He didn't know from whom, and couldn't conceive my object in asking about the country borrowing money on the authority of a Foreign Office despatch. It was true the despatch said I would pay everything back through the Foreign Office at S'ul.

Called also *Gensin* by the Japanese, and *Yonsan* by the Chinese. "Little country" and "big country" are common colloquialisms for Korea and China respectively.

but he had never heard of the Foreign Office, and didn't believe it would honour his dr. its any way. Nevertheless, I wanted money, so next day at 11 p.m. the chief town of a D. piment, and only 30 li north-west from Tong-ch'yn, I again tried the effect of the Foreign Office letter, with much the same result. The "ch'ue-u," or collector, showed up courage to lend me a coin, on an effort which exhausted the local treasury, on condition that I repaid it at W'onsan instead of at S'ul, and defrayed the expenses to and from of the messenger he sent with me. The whole transaction pointed to the interesting conclusion that there was a much greater lack of confidence in an Imperial Government Office than in a complete stranger like myself.

## MISCELLANEOUS.

**Population.**—That this part of the country is not populous is a conclusion arrived at without hesitation, though I should be at a loss to convey my impressions on the point in figures. Hamlets of a dozen or twenty houses are numerous in the cultivated valleys, but on the whole and for a whole country of 1,000,000 inhabitants, of 200,000, or any, 1,000,000 inhabitants. Of course, it would be wrong to form any general opinion from this. The south of Korea is reputed to be twice as thickly populated as the north, and the occasional presence of South Korean immigrants in the Ham-kyong and Py'ng-an Provinces tends to prove an overplus somewhere.

**An Official Residence.**—The exterior looked substantial, orderly, and neat; not so the interior. Facing the gate, the floor raised 3 or 4 feet from the ground, was a long room completely open to the south, except a portion to the left square partitioned off to serve as the Magistrate's office. The open room was his court-house. Tattered, and spread at random over the wooden floor, and an earthenware pot holding a few embers of charcoal, for purpose of lighting the evening pipe, stood in the centre. The office was papered, but the paper was sooty and scribbled over with Chinese characters where it was not pasted with dirty rosters and other memoranda. Most of the court-yard below was taken up with brushwood, implements for thrashing refractory persons, and a very unpleasant refuse trough. There was absolutely nothing, except the gate, to stamp the official character of the place.

**Tigers.**—In Korea the tiger occurs as late as a share of public attention as he does in India. The stories of the beast's ravages are extravagant, and taken in connection with the paucity of skins for sale, breed considerable incredulity among foreigners who have not visited the interior. Leopards are undoubtedly common. One has only to live in S'ul for a winter to be satisfied of that. Barely a winter passes that it is not possible to shoot a leopard within the walls of the city. But one has to go farther afield for tigers. It was at Wonsan that I first heard serious mention of them. The boys going to the hills in broad daylight to cut brushwood for fuel carried tin-plates and miniature gongs, with which they kept up a perpetual jangle to scare off their enemy, Mr. Crook, the Commissioner, declared that it was not safe to walk about the Settlement at night, and to lend force to his statement showed me the house of a European tide-waiter, a few yards away and nearer the jetty, whence a large retriever had been carried off by a tiger only three or four days before my arrival.

## CONCLUSION.

It should like to say that the main impression I have wished to convey in these pages is that, though her people live in equal and poverty, Korea is naturally a rich country, and one of excellent capabilities in every way. In my opinion this fact is not always remembered sufficiently. Rough comparisons may be made with Japan and China, very much to Korea's disadvantage, but it is seldom mentioned that the people, and not the country, are most to blame for this inferiority. To any one who has lived in Korea, it is obvious that her present backward condition is due simply to the inert character of the people. This bare statement, however, is very unjust to the Koreans. The conditions under which he lives, and especially those under which he has lived, until recently, must in common fairness be urged in extenuation of his shortcomings. The comparison with China is soon dismissed, for China is large enough to be her own world, and she has never been so overrun with officials as Korea is at the present moment. Japan the feudal system created bonds of mutual respect and confidence, which the centralised Government of Korea absolutely forbids; the lord of the soil, though compelled to exact his quota of Imperial expenses from the tenant, was still a permanent resident, and, as such, directly interested in the well-being and advancement of his people. The Korean Governor or magistrate is appointed from the capital, through favour of the King or some other adventitious circumstance, and his whole aim is concentrated usually on amassing as much wealth as the term of his office allows him. It is certain that the Korean character would alter for the better under an administration which would insure people in the lawful possession of their property, protect them from arbitrary molestation, and furnish them thereby with an incentive to honest exertion.

## THE P. &amp; O. STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY.

The half-yearly general meeting of the proprietors in the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company was held on the 10th ult., at the offices, Sir Thomas Sutherland, M.P., presiding.

In moving the adoption of the report, the Chairman remarked that it almost spoke for itself. For many years they paid an interim dividend upon £2,000,000, at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, and the amount thus paid was almost exactly equal to the amount paid to the shareholders, and the directors now declared upon the reduced capital of £2,000,000—5 per cent. on the preferred stock and 7 per cent. on the deferred stock—leaving, therefore, to the annual meeting the prospect, which he trusted might prove to be a real and true one, of being able to pay a higher dividend on the deferred stock at the close of the financial year. It was impossible for him to prophesy or foresee what the result of the year's operations would be, but, taking his stand on the facts of which he was in possession with regard to the work of the company for the six months ending on March 31st, he was able to convey to the proprietors in general terms some idea of the future prospects of the company. The comparisons which the operations of the present year had to submit to must be made with years of excellent good fortune—1889 and 1890—when the directors declared a dividend on the preferred stock of 5 per cent., and on the deferred stock of 13 per cent., in addition to carrying forward to the insurance fund a sum of £85,000, and bringing that up to half-a-million sterling. He was bound to say that the fact that so far as the accounts for the first six months of the present financial year went, they did not compare unfavourably with the highly prosperous year which had preceded it. At the same time, there were certain features of a satisfactory kind. It was, in the first place, highly satisfactory to find that the company had maintained and even increased its passenger revenue. On the other hand, they had suffered very much, and were at that moment containing to suffer, from the very large deficit in their outward freight account, which was absolutely on account of the actual falling off in cargo during the six months, although there had been a real and actual falling off in

that direction, but in consequence of the considerable decline which had taken place in the rates. In the six months the revenue of the company in outward freight from the port of London alone had diminished by nearly £400,000—between £350,000 and £400,000—and this was not due so much to their carrying less as to the fact of the enormous competition and the lower rates to which they had been exposed. It was undoubtedly the fall in exchange during the last six months, and the sudden decline in the great rise which had taken place in silver, which had seriously affected the export trade to the East, while at the same time the financial conditions of trade generally had been by no means such as to encourage speculation to any extent. The prominent feature in connection with the drop in the business was that within the last few years the shipping tonnage of this country had been added to by no less an amount than 1,000,000 tons of shipping, nearly all steam shipping. Then, again, the company had had the disadvantage of encountering numerous labour disputes in this country and in other parts of the world. The company also had the disadvantage of encountering the value of two vessels which they had lost. Happily, owing to the excellent system of precaution which the proprietors had enabled the board to take in dealing with matters of this kind in times past, notwithstanding the fact that one of these vessels was new, the amount which the directors would have to write off for the two ships would not exceed £70,000. He was bound to tell them, however, no figure to place before them, that although the half year did not compare favourably with the preceding period, yet on its own merits, and especially taking the different circumstances into account, the half-year ending March 31, 1891, was not, according to the directors' view of the matter, an unfavourable half-year at all, and if they were able to maintain their position at the end of September relatively and comparatively as they had at the end of March, they would, he believed, be happily enabled to pay a considerable addition to the dividend which they now declared upon the deferred stock. Referring to the prospect which lay before the company, the chairman proceeded to allude to the loss of the two vessels to which he had referred, and stated that the company had entered upon somewhat extensive shipbuilding contracts during the last half-year, as we have already noticed from the report, and had ordered 35,000 tons of shipping. He concluded by moving the adoption of the report.

## THE NEW CRUSADERS.

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## THE ARGENTINE REPUBLIC AND BARRING BROTHERS.

As soon as the collapse of Baring Brothers was announced the New York Herald sent a staff correspondent to the Argentine Republic to inquire into the investments which precipitated the failure. The correspondent made a thorough investigation, and his report makes a remarkable story, showing how Charles H. Sanford, a Yankee drummer for the sale of pills and toilet preparations, first secured membership in the American firm of S. B. Hale & Co. in Buenos Ayres, and after making \$1,000,000 by a financial coup went to London and won the confidence of Lord Revelstoke, head of the Baring firm, thence returning to Argentina and investing untold millions of the Baring's gold in doubtful enterprises and securities.

Twenty-five years ago Sanford was on the east coast of South America, and traveled as drummer for a New York firm dealing in drugs and chemicals—the firm of S. B. Hale & Co., whose members were about to retire.

He used the maternal love of Mr. Pearson, daughter of Samuel Hale and wife of John R. Pearson, as a lever to further his interests. He argued that the glories of the old house of Hale & Co. might be revived, and that in its operations there was a brilliant future for Mrs. Pearson's son.

The ambitious hopes thus instilled in the lady's mind found co-operation in the minds of other feminine members of the family, and although Pearson remained in the house was continued, with Sanford as one of the partners. He obtained full control, and engaged in foolhardy enterprises which would have ended in ruin but for the private fortunes of Hale and Pearson. Then came the stroke of the Yankee's life.

After the revolution the Provisional Government found it necessary to consolidate the debt in order to accomplish this purpose, outstanding loans had to be taken up, including a "popular loan" held by Hale & Co. The real ability which Sanford possessed now became apparent. He intrigued with the Government in behalf of the "popular loan," and it is current here that he "subsidized" certain officials.

Gold and paper were now at par. The loan was taken up by the Government in paper, and the sales of Hale & Co. were cleared of certificates which had cost the firm many anxious moments and sleepless nights. European loans were repaid in gold, and the profit which ensued solely by reason of good luck and the parity of gold and paper, turned in a profit of upward of \$1,000,000.

Shortly after this Sanford went to London, where he besieged Lord Revelstoke, head of the firm of Baring Brothers. Sanford talked to Revelstoke about the extraordinary resources of Argentina and the unbounded prospects of the country. When Sanford departed from London, carrying with him the confidence and admiration of Lord Revelstoke, and with the millions of the Baring's bank behind him to spend and invest, a universe of chances was revealed to his triumphant vision.

The correspondent relates in detail the story of the investment of the Baring gold by Sanford. First he was obliged to subsidize the Government in order to obtain a great water-works contract. The estimated cost of the entire works on which interest was to be allowed was \$35,000,000 in gold. The price of the concession to Baring Brothers, through Hale & Co., was \$21,000,000 in gold, payable to the Minister of Finance in three instalments.

placed him on a pinnacle, toward the apex of which less fortunate operators gazed with eyes fraught with admiration. Juarez Celman was chief executive of Argentine. He received upward of \$500,000 for his "fee" in granting the concession. An additional sum of \$100,000 was also paid to the President, if the statements of some responsible men are accurate. Minister of the Interior Will received \$300,000 for his share. It proved a difficult task for the correspondent to trace the entire disposition of the Baring corruption fund, but he believed in current that nearly \$2,000,000 was spent in "preliminaries." Sanford is popularly credited with securing personal commissions which put him high above water.

The Government's liability to the Baring Brothers on this single enterprise is nearly \$30,000,000. Their losses from this water-works investment will not be as great, proportionately, as in the purchases of bonds and other money securities. There are extensive investments of their money here which no one outside the confidential circles of the house's employees and those of their agents can describe. Notwithstanding the difficulties met with, the correspondent learned that amounts ranging from \$5,000,000 to twice or three times that amount were obtained by various provinces for "internal improvements." One of these loans to Cordoba, the correspondent says, is larger than the entire province is worth. The Baring's also have large investments in railroad bonds, but these will yield fair returns in time.

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Now if the Cardinal secures nearly all the subterranean water sources of the desert, making each center a source of fertility, he will have literally taken possession of this vast area. The result will be that every caravan crossing the desert will be compelled to stop at these posts for water and other supplies. Nearly every caravan crossing toward the coast is a slave caravan. That is, slaves are one of the principal items of commerce. The Baring's of the Sahara will stop every caravan that attempts to cross the desert with slaves. They will have the key to the situation. The caravans cannot cross without water, and they cannot cross with slaves. As the greater part of this desert is under nominal Mohammedan control it will be interesting to mark the way in which these religious enthusiasts obtain a footing.

When it is found that the ulterior purpose is to suppress the slave trade, not only in the Sahara, but to smite it at all other vital points in Africa, then it is probable that something like a hand-to-hand contest will begin. The chain of posts which dot the desert will be filled with fighting men. Veteran soldiers will be there. They have already gone to Biskra. Repeating rifles and repeating cannon will be among the supplies. When it becomes impossible for a slave caravan to cross Sahara, the next move will be on the fertile slave districts of the far interior. The chain of posts will be gradually extended. Every post will be a base of supplies, missionary station, and a district of fertile fields and gardens. It is probable also, also, that gradually these stations will be connected, one after another, by a railroad. They will become centers of population. When the natives find that they can have complete protection, they will prefer life with security in the fertile districts.

Cardinal Lavigier's recruits are required to take the vows of poverty, obedience and devotion for five years. If they wish then to retire, other recruits will be ready to fill their places. If this religious and military conquest is vigorously prosecuted, there will be few idle men among the volunteers. For the first time the crusader has undertaken to extinguish the slave trade by the religious force. There are to be no acts of desolation. The faithful are to be converted by peaceful means, and as far as possible turned into fruitful gardens. The missionary in his white tunic and straw helmet will have on each a red cross. His rifle and Gatling gun will only be called into service when actually necessary. There is no reasonable prospect that the slave trade of Africa can be suppressed without force. There is a powerful Mohammedan league already organized to defend it. The Cardinal himself long ago admitted that it would not do to depend wholly on peaceful means. As far as possible he will conserve human life. But the crusader and religious enthusiasts who are flocking to his standard in the desert are mighty, also with the sword.

## Intimations.

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**Today's Advertisements.**

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Paul Jones (Shipping Clerk) at Malo).....Mr. W. Walsh.

Rufino de Martinez (Naval) at Malo).....Mr. P. Vernard.

Pupit at St. Malo).....Mr. P. Vernard.

Bloquet (Shipowner and Merchant).....Mr. Frank Saxby.

Don Trocadero (Captain-General of Estrella).....Mr. Hall.

Kit Kestrel (Skipper of Privateer).....Mr. E. Farnley.

Captain Octroi (of the Customs).....Mr. Smyth.

Bouillabaisse (Fisherman and Spy).....Mr. F. Wentworth.

Petit Pierre (his Apprentice).....Mr. Harry Hall.

Malaguena (Ward of Don Trocadero).....Miss Basil Royal.

Chopinette (Wife of Bouillabaisse).....Miss Vera Patey.

Gougon.....Miss R. Dewar.

Mignonne.....Miss C. Swift.

Delphine.....Miss Norman.

Nichette.....Miss E. McDonald.

Louise.....Miss Roberts.

Alva.....Miss Shillit.

Jeanne.....Miss Brooks.

Fernando (a Page).....Miss P. Triggs.

Yvonne (Niece of Bloquet).....Miss P. Triggs.

Sallons, Privates, Girls of St. Malo, Countess, &c.

Conductor.....Mr. T. ZEPLIN.

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Plan now Open at Messrs. Kelly & Walsh.

GENERAL ADMISSION:—3s, 2s and 1s.

1st Late Trains will run on Saturdays at 8.45 p.m. and 2nd hour after the Performance.

Hongkong 16th July, 1891.

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**FOR SWATOW, AMOY & FOCHOW.**

The Company's Steamship

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Captain Goddard, will be despatched for the above Ports on SUNDAY, the 19th instant, at Daylight.

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Hongkong, 16th July, 1891.

**Intimations.**

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CABINETS from \$5 a dozen.

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**OREGON PINE SPARS AND LUMBER**

Always on Hand.

L. MALLORY.

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The best Brands of **WINES, LIQUORS, CIGARS, &c.**, all ready on Stock. **MEALS** can be served at any hour. Prompt attendance.

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BRITISH CONCESSION, CANTON.

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The Bed-rooms are cool, airy, and comfortably furnished, and the spacious Dining Room, Sitting Rooms, and accommodation generally will be found equal to the best Hotels in the Far East.

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